



منظمة الأغذية
والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

联合国
粮食及
农业组织

Food
and
Agriculture
Organization
of
the
United
Nations

Organisation
des
Nations
Unies
pour
l'alimentation
et
l'agriculture

Продовольственная и
сельскохозяйственная
организация
Объединенных
Наций

Organización
de las
Naciones
Unidas
para la
Agricultura
y la
Alimentación

COMMITTEE ON COMMODITY PROBLEMS

Sixty-eighth Session

Rome, 14–16 June 2010

ROLES AND WORKING ARRANGEMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE ON COMMODITY PROBLEMS AND THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMODITY GROUPS

I. Introduction

1. At its 67th Session, the Committee on Commodity Problems agreed with a suggestion from the Chair that it was timely to reflect on the Committee's current and future roles and working arrangements, including its name. The CCP is the oldest of FAO's technical committees, holding its first session in 1950. The intervening period has seen major changes in international commodity markets: changing consumption patterns resulting from globalization, urbanization and increasing incomes; technological innovation, including the development of biofuels and competitive synthetic substitutes for many agricultural raw materials; increasing concentration in international commodity markets; institutional changes in commodity exporting countries as a result of structural adjustment programmes with an expanded role for the private sector in commodity trade; the development of global commodity value chains; changes in the agricultural terms of trade; and changes in the nature and extent of commodity price volatility. The policy debate has evolved accordingly. The economic and political approach to enhancing commodity market efficiency has shifted away from the interventionist price support and market stabilization, typified by the creation of international commodity organizations with "economic clauses", towards an increasing emphasis on market transparency and price risk management. Agricultural trade policy has seen progressive reform not least through the Uruguay Round Agreement on Agriculture and the move towards a rules-based international trading system under the auspices of the WTO.

2. Members expressed the view that the basic terms of reference defining the scope of the CCP's work remain valid and that the CCP will retain its focus on reviewing market developments and policy matters. The main point for discussion, therefore, is how the CCP can better address its core terms of reference and in particular be at the centre of global discussions on commodity trade and related policy issues. On the question of the name of the Committee, while a change of name to reflect the changed environment might contribute to updating the image of the

This document is printed in limited numbers to minimize the environmental impact of FAO's processes and contribute to climate neutrality. Delegates and observers are kindly requested to bring their copies to meetings and to avoid asking for additional copies. Most FAO meeting documents are available on the Internet at www.fao.org

CCP there appears to be no consensus on changing the name or for dropping the reference to commodities in it. The ongoing process of FAO reform and implementation of the Immediate Plan of Action (IPA) approved by the 36th Session of Conference later in 2009 also have implications for the role and functioning of the CCP. The purpose of this document is to support the Committee in its discussion of the opportunities for maintaining the relevance and enhancing the effectiveness of the CCP and its consideration of appropriate modalities for implementation of the IPA.

3. Also, at its 67th Session, the CCP requested that the Secretariat prepare terms of reference for a working group to review the present and future roles of the Intergovernmental Commodity Groups (IGGs) which are subcommittees of the CCP. The purpose of this working group was to be to explore the scope for maintaining the relevance and enhancing the effectiveness of these IGGs in the light of the changes in the international commodity economy since their establishment and make recommendations accordingly. This document also provides some background information on the status and activities of the FAO IGGs and in an annex indicates possible terms of reference for the working group as a basis for discussion by the Committee.

II. CCP in the Basic Texts – the current working arrangements

4. Article V of the FAO Constitution as amended under the Immediate Plan of Action provides for a Committee on Commodity Problems to assist and report to the Council on programme and budget matters and to the Conference on policy and regulatory matters. Rule XXIX specifies its terms of reference and broad principles concerning membership, chairmanship, participation and subcommittees and other subsidiary bodies. These broad principles are elaborated in the Committee's Rules of Procedure. The Committee has the power to change its Rules of Procedure subject to consistency with the Constitution and the General Rules of the Organization. Under Rule XXIX, the Committee may establish subsidiary bodies. These are the Intergovernmental Commodity Groups (IGGs) and the Consultative Subcommittee on Surplus Disposal (CSSD) discussed further below.

A. TERMS OF REFERENCE

5. The basic technical responsibilities of the CCP are set out in Rule XXIX:
- a) “keep under review commodity problems of an international character affecting production, trade, distribution, consumption and related economic matters;
 - b) prepare a factual and interpretative survey of the world commodity situation, which may be made available directly to Member Nations”.
6. The revisions to Rule XXIX approved by the 36th Session of Conference in implementation of the Immediate Plan of Action added:

“In discharging its functions, the Committee shall, as appropriate, strengthen its interaction with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the World Trade Organization and the Common Fund for Commodities”

B. RULES OF PROCEDURE

7. The Chairperson and two Vice-Chairpersons are elected by the Committee at the first session in each biennium. The CCP normally meets once in each biennium and elections have been held at the beginning of each session. This means that officers have chaired the session at which they are elected but typically have had little involvement thereafter weakening the continuity of the CCP's activities. The Secretary of the CCP is appointed by the Director-General and has always been a senior officer from the Trade and Markets Division which also provides the Secretariat for the CCP.

8. The Rules of Procedure indicate that the CCP should normally hold two sessions during each biennium. In practice this has not been the case for many years and the CCP has met on a

biennial basis in common with the other technical committees. The Rules place no restrictions on the number of meetings which may be held during each session, although this is clearly constrained by the length of the session. In recent years the formal meetings of the committee have been supplemented by a range of related side events. The Rules also indicate that the sessions of the CCP should normally be held at FAO headquarters but may be held elsewhere if the Committee so decides or requests with the agreement of the Director-General. The date and place of each session should normally be announced at least two months in advance. Participation in sessions is open to all Member Nations of the Organization and, subject to the FAO Constitution and General Rules, to international organizations and non-Member Nations as observers. Meetings of the CCP are held in public unless the Committee decides otherwise for discussion of particular agenda items.

9. The provisional agenda for sessions of the CCP is formally decided by the Director-General in consultation with the Chairperson. It should normally be circulated at least thirty days in advance of the session. Documents not already circulated should be dispatched with the provisional agenda or as soon as possible thereafter. Members may request the Director-General to include items in advance of the session. Adoption of the Agenda should be the first item on the provisional agenda and the Committee may also agree to amend the agenda in session under this item.

10. The Rules of Procedure appear to impose little constraint on the scope for varying key aspects of the CCP's procedures and working arrangements if the Committee felt these were desirable. Proposals for more radical changes may require scrutiny by the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM) to assess whether changes to the Basic Texts are required.

III. The CCP today

11. The current format and duration of CCP sessions stem from the review of the CCP and the Committee on Agriculture (COAG) undertaken for the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committee at the request of the 124th Session of Council. The objective of this review was to explore the scope for efficiency savings which might be realised by linking sessions of the two committees. A discussion paper evaluating alternative arrangements was prepared by the Secretaries of the two committees and a proposal to hold CCP and COAG sessions back-to-back over a six-day period was eventually adopted by the 127th Session of the Council and implemented on a trial basis in 2005. The new arrangements reduced the duration of the CCP sessions to two and a half days which, allowing time for preparation of the report, drafting committee meetings and adoption of the report mean only one and a half days for discussion of substantive agenda items. The initial reaction of Members to the revised format was favourable although the sought-after efficiency savings were small for both Members and the Organization. More recently, some Members have expressed concern, for example in the Independent Extended Evaluation (IEE) Working Groups, that the duration of the CCP sessions is too short for detailed discussion of complex technical and policy matters. It is certainly the case that the current duration does constrain the options for development of the CCP.

12. Since the reforms introduced in 2005, the agenda of CCP sessions has, of necessity, focused on the core terms of reference. This has met with the broad approval of Members. The specific topics for discussion and supporting documentation are usually suggested by the Secretariat and the Chairperson agrees the draft agenda with the Secretariat, prior to its submission to the Director-General for approval. The extent of the Chairperson's involvement depends very much on their wish and willingness to be involved.

13. It was requested in the 36th Session of the Conference that work priorities in the area of competence of the CCP should be discussed at the next session of the CCP. The CCP has been the one technical committee which has not discussed the programme of work, except in an informal way, and it has not been in the Committee's terms of reference. One practical reason for this is the

constraint imposed by the short duration of CCP: as the IEE Report pointed out, the technical committees of the Council “.... tend to focus excessively on the work of the FAO Secretariat and give inadequate attention to driving a global policy agenda”. The work programme of the Trade and Markets Divisions has always been responsive to the wishes of Members expressed in the CCP and the agenda items for sessions of CCP reflect this.

14. The Report of the CCP has normally been drafted by a drafting committee at the request of Members. However, on occasion a rapporteur has been used, most recently at the 59th Session in 1993 and the 61st Session in 1997, and this is an option available to the Membership.

15. While efforts have been made to attract greater participation from capitals including from ministries of trade as well as agriculture ministries and to encourage participation of NGOs and civil society, the majority of participants continue to be Rome-based Permanent Representatives. Holding CCP sessions back-to-back with COAG in pursuit of efficiency savings may have militated against participation at a more specialised technical level. Continuity of the CCP’s activities between sessions is currently confined to the technical and administrative work of the Secretariat. Continuity of the CCP’s activities between sessions is currently confined to the technical and administrative work of the Secretariat.

16. The CCP’s Secretariat in the FAO Trade and Markets Division has concentrated international expertise in commodity market and trade policy analysis. However, there is complementary expertise and interests in aspects of the work of the WTO, the CFC, UNCTAD, the World Bank, OECD and also some of the International Commodity Bodies. All these organizations are observers at the CCP and the Secretariat works closely at the technical level with all of them. Joint side events have also been organized at previous CCPs.

17. The CCP has made extensive use of side events in recent sessions. These have been organized in general by the Secretariat on themes related to the terms of reference of the CCP. Some have been organized by Member Nations or NGOs. The number of slots available for side events is limited especially since the duration of the CCP sessions was reduced and typically all available slots are taken up. Side events are seen as a valuable adjunct to the main meetings allowing in-depth discussion of technical issues and informing Members of FAO’s ongoing work. So far an open-door policy has been maintained whereby all requests to mount side-events have been accommodated subject to the number of available slots. This has meant that a forum has been provided for expression of different viewpoints, including those contrary to FAO positions.

IV. Subcommittees of the CCP

A. THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMODITY GROUPS

18. The FAO Intergovernmental Commodity Groups (IGGs) were established by the CCP between 1955 (rice) and 1970 (meat) according to the General Rule XXIX.10. There are currently nine IGGs: Rice; Grains; Citrus fruit; Jute, Kenaf and Allied Fibres; Oilseeds, Oils and Fats; Bananas and Tropical Fruits; Hard Fibres; Tea; and Meat and Dairy Products. The range of commodities covered by the IGGs is actually broader than suggested by their titles: the IGG on meat and dairy products, for example, has a sub-group on hides and skins while the IGG on grains also covers pulses, roots and tubers. In general, the IGGs focus on one or a narrow range of commodities. While occasionally meetings of two or more IGGs are held jointly – rice, grains and oilseeds, for example – the normal commodity specific meetings are not conducive to consideration of cross-commodity issues. Furthermore, while the IGGs report to the CCP for information, they operate autonomously and hence the IGGs do not capitalise much on the CCP’s contextual and cross-commodity work and the CCP does not capitalise much on the IGGs’ commodity specific analyses and information.

19. The rules of procedure and terms of reference of the various IGGs were set originally by the CCP but may be adopted or amended by the IGGs themselves subject to CCP approval. There

appears, therefore, to be flexibility within the rules to tailor the activities of IGGs to the evolving specific needs and priorities of their members. Membership of the IGGs is open to all FAO Member Nations and is representative of consumer as well as producer interests, although producer interests and involvement tend to predominate. The rules do not provide for private sector participation in the activities of the IGGs except as part of official government delegations. The limited scope for involvement of private sector interests is seen as a major weakness of the IGGs, especially since commodity trade is now largely a private sector affair. The Secretariats of all the IGGs are provided by the FAO Trade and Markets Division. Meetings and documentation of the IGGs are important vehicles for disseminating the work of the Trade and Markets Division.

20. The basic purpose of all IGGs today is to provide a forum for consultations on economic aspects of the production, consumption, marketing and trade for the commodity concerned and for review of related policies. Their Secretariats support this through the collection and dissemination of information and statistics and through analyses of market developments and policy issues. In the past, some IGGs were actively involved in market support and stabilization developing draft international commodity agreements, operating export quotas and setting indicative prices but these activities were gradually discontinued as the shortcomings of such measures were increasingly recognized. The IGGs also promote commodity development through their designation as the relevant International Commodity Bodies (ICBs) for submission of commodity development projects for financing by the Common Fund for Commodities (CFC). The Secretariats of the relevant IGGs play a central role in the identification of commodity development priorities and projects, project preparation and project supervision.

21. Outside FAO, independent specialized organizations exist for a number of major agricultural commodities: International Coffee Organization (ICO), International Cocoa Organization (ICCO), International Sugar Organization (ISO), International Grains Council (IGC), International Cotton Advisory Committee (ICAC), International Rubber Study Group (IRSG), International Network for Bamboo and Rattan (INBAR), International Jute Study Group (IJSJ) and International Olive Council (IOC). These independent organizations fulfil similar or complementary roles to the IGGs and their Secretariats in FAO, including collection and dissemination of statistical information and market and policy analyses. Most of these organizations are also recognized as the relevant International Commodity Bodies for the commodities concerned for submission of commodity development projects for financing by the CFC.

22. The FAO IGGs and the independent commodity organizations are key components of the international commodity economy whose activities aim to enhance the transparency and efficiency of international commodity markets, support product and market development and promote effective and coordinated policy. The precise balance between these activities in the different FAO IGGs has varied from one group to another according to the perceived priorities for the commodity concerned. The *modus operandi* also varies slightly from one group to another as a result of revisions to their procedures over the years. While the work of the Secretariats in the FAO Trade and Markets Division is continuous, the active involvement of group members between the formal meetings also varies across groups. The IGG on Tea has perhaps maintained the most active participation through its establishment of working groups to address key issues of concern such as international standards on maximum residue levels. The IGGs on Hard Fibres and on Jute, Kenaf and Allied Fibres hold regular inter-sessional meetings to discuss current market developments. However, for most of the other IGGs there is little active participation between their formal meetings. Some IGGs hold their meetings regularly on the biennial basis which had become the norm although resource constraints have meant that some now meet less frequently. The IGG Secretariats have explored a number of informal arrangements to enhance the effective participation of the private sector including running open commodity conferences together with IGG meetings, to address it. Most recently, the idea of an inclusive *multi-stakeholder forum* involving all stakeholders in a particular commodity market – private sector, NGOs, government, producers, traders, consumers – has been successfully piloted for bananas.

B. THE CONSULTATIVE SUBCOMMITTEE ON SURPLUS DISPOSAL

23. The Consultative Subcommittee on Surplus Disposal (CSSD) was established by the CCP in 1954. It meets several times each year in Washington, DC and its reports are provided for information at each session of the CCP. The CSSD is charged with: reviewing developments in the disposal of agricultural surpluses, and assisting Member Nations in developing suitable means of surplus disposal; providing a forum for consultations and notifications of food aid transactions to ensure that these transactions do not adversely affect commercial trade and do not create disincentives to domestic production in the recipient countries. The basis of the CSSD's deliberations is the *FAO Guidelines and Principles of Surplus Disposal* as endorsed by the Conference. Its procedures are set out in *Reporting procedures and consultative obligations under the FAO principles of surplus disposal: a guide for members of the FAO Consultative Committee on Surplus Disposal*.

24. In recent years the CSSD has struggled to meet its mandate concerning monitoring of food aid transactions. Major food aid donors have either not notified transactions at all or have reported them late. The 65th Session of the CCP in 2005 called on the CSSD to undertake a thorough review of the reasons for these difficulties. However, the CCP felt that it was premature to discuss the future nature and roles of the CSSD in advance of an agreement being reached in the WTO negotiations. Instead, it was decided to send a signal to the WTO concerning the role of the CSSD in monitoring international food aid flows and indicating that it could be at the service of the WTO if appropriate and required. Nevertheless, some Members remain sceptical as to whether the CSSD has a continuing role to play.

V. Recent evaluations of the CCP and the IGGs

25. The Independent External Evaluation (IEE) made few comments on the CCP itself (C2007/7A.1-Rev.1). It recommended that the CCP should "... strengthen interaction with UNCTAD, WTO and the Common Fund for Commodities". It also suggested that CCP meetings might be convened in Geneva although this was rejected by the IEE working groups, the Programme Committee and the CCP itself in subsequent discussions. The IEE had further specific suggestions regarding the operations of the CCP's subcommittees, the IGGs, which it recommended should only meet "when needed" rather than according to a strict biennial timetable and that regional meetings might be called when appropriate. In fact, these recommendations simply endorsed what had already become current practice for most IGGs. The IEE noted the benefits of forging closer links between the IGGs and the CCP and responded positively to the suggestion that IGG meetings might be convened contiguously with sessions of the CCP to encourage participation of commodity specialists in the Committee.

26. While the IEE commented only briefly on the CCP specifically, it commented more extensively on the work and procedures of the technical committees in general. These recommendations carried over into the Immediate Plan of Action. Some of the recommendations of the IEE and the FAO reform process have already been implemented and have begun to change some aspects of the way the CCP works. For others there is a need to discuss appropriate modalities for implementation. Some recommendations apply to all technical committees so there may be a need for a common response but the CCP may wish to consider its position.

27. Particularly pertinent to the current discussion are the IEE's views on the role of the technical committees in driving a global policy agenda to support greater attention being given to such policy issues in the Conference. The contributions of the technical committees in this respect were seen as constrained by their agendas and by the quality of participation. The IEE recommended that the agendas and sessions of the technical committees should be designed to focus on global policy matters rather than the work programmes of the FAO Secretariats. It noted that "... agenda items and priorities for meetings are fixed by top management with little consultation with member countries nor often with staff responsible internally for the subjects in question". However, at the same time, the IEE recommended a greater role in formulating work

programmes and priorities for the technical committees: the committees should prepare a multiyear programme of work with progress reported each biennium to be reviewed by Council and/or Conference. The IEE further noted that in the technical committees “deliberations are constrained by a lack of sufficient or adequate knowledge and expertise on the subject from representatives attending technical meetings (in most cases members of permanent missions in Rome)”. There was, therefore, a need for more expert participation. The IEE felt that more expert chairpersons would improve the quality of discussion of policy issues and should steer the design of agendas in full consultation with Members. Greater use of side events and parallel sessions was also seen as supporting policy debate.

28. The *Evaluation of FAO's Work in Commodities and Trade* presented to the 97th Session of the Programme Committee in 2007, also commented only briefly on the CCP, mainly echoing the views of the IEE on the need to enhance the technical level of participation in CCP meetings, especially on international trade issues. The Evaluation supported the IEE's recommendations as to how this might be achieved, notably the idea of holding occasional CCP sessions in Geneva and involving UNCTAD and the WTO. The evaluation team also agreed with the IEE's support for holding IGG meetings contiguously with sessions of the CCP to enhance the quality of participation in both. The Evaluation further commented on the need to expand the participation of the private sector in IGG meetings, seeing the IGGs as a vehicle to develop partnerships with the private sector for the benefit of FAO's commodities work in general. The Secretariats' initiatives to enhance private sector involvement through back-to-back conferences and workshops were welcomed. However, this was seen as an expensive way to get around the problem and the evaluation team recommended that the IGG Secretariats should explore different structures for the IGGs which facilitated effective private sector participation.

VI. Future roles and working arrangements of the CCP – some questions for discussion

29. The objective of this review is to confirm the CCP as the major global forum for discussion of commodity market issues and related policy matters on the basis of high-quality technical analysis by its Secretariat. As such, it should be relevant and effective in meeting the needs of its Members and the Organization and in driving a global policy agenda in its area of competence. The Committee is invited to comment on the issues raised in this paper and to recommend appropriate modalities for strengthening the CCP's position at the centre of international debate. Some specific questions arising from the issues raised are set out below to assist the Committee.

- Are the core terms of reference of the CCP appropriate?
- Is the current balance between market developments and policy issues appropriate or should greater weight be given to global policy matters?
- Should the terms of reference be broadened to include review of FAO work programmes and priorities relating to the remit of the Committee and a standing item added to the CCP agenda?
- Should the question of the appropriateness of the CCP's name in describing its activities and relevance to current issues in agricultural commodity markets and policy be revisited?
- Are the current logistical arrangements for sessions of CCP, including their timing, duration and back-to-back arrangement with session of COAG appropriate or should less limiting arrangements be considered?
- Are the current procedures for drafting the Committee's report satisfactory or should other procedures be explored?
- What modalities might be explored for strengthening cooperation with other international organizations beyond their current participation as observers and technical collaborators?

- Should at least some of the organizations be brought together around the session of the CCP in jointly organized meetings in what could be described as a “commodity week” also including meetings of the CCP’s IGGs and which could be the major international forum on commodity trade issues?
- What modalities might be suggested for strengthening linkages between the IGGs and the CCP, making them a more integral part of the CCP and promoting cross-commodity analysis and consensus building?
- Should the role and relevance of the CSSD be reviewed to address the concerns raised since the CCP’s 65th Session in 2005?
- How can more effective and active participation of Members in the work of the Committee including between formal sessions be promoted?
- How can a more active role for the Chairperson in developing the agenda, maintaining policy dialogue and developing the CCP’s work priorities be defined and supported?
- Should the CCP have a steering committee as in the Committees on Fisheries and Forestry, made up of the chairperson and vice-chairpersons to work with the Secretariat in steering the CCP’s agenda and its inter-sessional work programme to improve the continuity of its activity and raise its profile.
- How might side events best play a role in generating interest in the CCP and discussing themes in more innovative ways than possible in the formal sessions and how should they relate to the formal sessions?

30. Clearly, there are many issues and questions for the Committee to discuss and which probably require more consideration than the current Session affords. The Committee may wish to consider appropriate mechanisms for taking forward this review. The Committee is further invited to recommend the appropriate composition and terms of reference for the working group requested at its 67th Session to review the IGGs. Some suggestions are offered in the annex below as a basis for discussion.

ANNEX

Working group to review the present and future roles of the IGGs

The 67th Session of the CCP requested that the Secretariat prepare terms of reference for a working group to review the present and future roles of the IGGs for discussion by the CCP. Some suggestions and proposals to assist the Committee in this discussion are given below.

Membership

It is understood that the membership of the working group would be representatives of Member Countries. The size of the working group remains to be discussed and determined by the CCP but previous experience suggests that a group of 12-15 members might be most appropriate. While the focus of the group's work is the FAO IGGs, the experience of other bodies concerned with commodities is highly relevant. The addition of members from organizations such as the various international commodity organizations, the CFC and UNCTAD might therefore be considered. There is an ongoing debate concerning the roles of the international commodity bodies in general so such external members might find the discussion of the FAO IGGs relevant to the reform of their own organizations.

The Secretariat and administrative support for the working group would be provided by the Trade and Markets Division.

Issues to address

The basic task for the working group is to review the roles and functioning of the IGGs and on the basis of this review to recommend measures to ensure their continuing relevance and effectiveness in meeting the changing needs of the international commodity economy. Such measures may relate both to the terms of reference of the IGGs and to their operating procedures and the resource implications of any measures proposed should be considered.

While the working group is obviously free to determine the scope of its work, some major issues to consider have been highlighted by the Secretariat's recent experience of IGG activities and by the previous evaluations of the IGGs reviewed above. These are listed below for the guidance of the working group. A number of the suggestions made have resource implications which the working group would need to consider in its recommendations.

- The perceived usefulness of the IGGs to Member Nations, the perceived quality of the papers presented and the relevance of the topics addressed in IGG agendas could be surveyed to identify what the IGGs do well and is useful to members and what important needs of Members they fail to meet.
- The need to enhance participation of the private sector in IGG activities, including their formal meetings. This might include an assessment of the initiatives taken to date, such as the linking of IGG meetings to major international commodity conferences. It might also include a review of the recent experience in the FAO Trade and Markets Division in establishing a multi-stakeholder forum for bananas and its current exploration of a multi-stakeholder forum for fibres. These more inclusive fora might provide an organizational model for broadening IGG participation.
- Measures to promote continuing activity of the IGGs between formal meetings, such as theme-based working groups to analyse particular economic, policy or technical issues and to report back to the formal meetings.
- Measures to forge a closer relationship between the different IGGs to exploit synergies in their respective work and to better address cross-commodity issues such as trade policy developments or standards and certification.

- Measures to forge a closer relationship between the IGGs and the CCP so that discussion and consensus building on cross-commodity issues benefit from specific commodity expertise. Discussion of this issue might include consideration of the suggestion that IGG meetings might be held in conjunction with the sessions of the CCP in an FAO “commodity week”. Such an inclusive event could also include the participation of the international commodity organizations, the CFC, UNCTAD and the WTO to become the major international commodity event.
- The appropriate frequency of IGG meetings, and in particular the suggestion of the IEE that IGGs should meet “as required” rather than on a routine biennial cycle. The working group may wish to review and if appropriate endorse the Secretariats’ moves in this direction in pursuit of efficiency savings but also consider the implications for the topicality of meeting agendas. The current rules of procedure may constrain the scope for calling IGG meetings at short notice in response to emerging issues for the commodity concerned.
- The appropriate location for IGG meetings whether in FAO headquarters or in major producing or consuming countries for the commodity concerned. This issue also has implications for the resource costs of meetings and for the interest they generate.

Reporting

It is envisaged that the working group would report its findings and make its recommendations to the 69th Session of the CCP.